

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 0602

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT TGEN

SUBJECT: DR. HUMBERTO FERNANDEZ-MORAN

1. DURING THE PAST WEEKS WE HAVE HAD THE VISIT HERE OF DR. HUMBERTO FERNANDEZ-MORAN, THE DISTINGUISHED PRITZKER PROFESSOR OF BIOPHYSICS, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, WHO IS AS BRIGHT IN PHYSICS AS HE IS ERRATIC IN POLITICS.
 2. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWNS, AT ONE TIME FERNADEZ-MORAN IMAGINED THAT HE COULD HAVE BEEN THE PEREZJIMENISTA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, BUT FORTUNATELY FOR HIM, VENEZUELA AND THE UNITED STATES THIS FIZZLED OUT.
 3. FERNANDEZ-MORAN, WHO DABBLES IN POLITICS WITH A STRONG ZULIANO ACCENT, AS AN OPPORTUNISTIC PLOY TEMPORARILY SUPPORTED THE COPEYANOS IN THE LAST ELECTION AND BELIEVES HIMSELF (PROBABLY CORRECTLY) IN THE ILL GRACES OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ.
 4. WE HAVE RECEIVED THROUGH JOURNALISTIC CIRCLES THE REPORT THAT INADVISEDLY (BECAUSE HE SUFFERS FROM LOGORRHEA) HE MAY IN AN INCAUTIOUS MOMENT HAVE SAID THAT "IF CARLOS ANDRES DOESN'T BEHAVE, KISSINGER WILL TOPPLE HIM."
 5. THIS AFTERNOON AT A LUNCHEON I GAVE FOR NOBEL PRIZE WINNER YANG, I TOLD MY FRIEND FERNANDEZ-MORAN THAT THIS RUMOR WAS GOING AROUND TOWN AND THAT IT WOULD BE OF
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NO SERVICE, ESPECIALLY TO HIM TO SAY NOTHING OF OUR FUTURE

RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE NEW PRESIDENT. AS EXPECTED, HE
VEHEMENTLY DENIED THAT HE HAD MADE ANY SUCH STATEMENT.

6. THIS BACKGROUND IS FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE
FERNANDEZ-MORAN IS LEAVING ON JANUARY 22 FOR WASHINGTON
WHERE HIS TONGUE WILL STILL BE UNIMPEDED. THERE IS
NO DOUBT AS TO HIS ABILITY AS A SCIENTIST, BUT THERE IS
AMPLE DOUBT AS TO HIS CAPACITY AS A POLITICIAN.

7. ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE--AND THIS IS WORTHY OF
CONSIDERATION IN CU, USIA AND ARA--FERNANDEZ-MORAN
WOULD LIKE TO NEGOTIATE A SCIENTIFIC INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE UNITED STATES. THIS WE IN
EMBASSY AND USIS WOULD WELCOME, BUT WE WOULD HAVE SOME
RESERVATIONS IF IT WERE SPONSORED BY FERNANDEZ-MORAN.
MCCLINTOCK

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